

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3842
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, EC
SUBJECT: GOE CONFIRMS RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE

REF: QUITO 2255

1. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 6 MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT COL. BOLIVAR JARRIN ANNOUNCED THAT THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT WOULD RETURN POWER TO CIVILIANS AS SCHEDULED IN JANUARY, 1978. HIS PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT FOLLOWED A MEETING WITH THE THREE MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT WITH THE PRESIDENTS OF THE THREE COMMISSIONS AND THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL IN WHICH THE COUNCIL PROVIDED ASSURANCES THAT THE GOE INTENDED TO FULFILL ITS PLEDGES TO RESTORE CIVILIAN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN ECUADOR AS SCHEDULED.

2. THE SUPREME COUNCIL AND THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE RESULTED FROM DECLARATIONS MADE MARCH 4 BY GALO PLAZA, PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL, THAT THE ANNOUNCED SCHEDULE FOR THE TRANSITION WOULD HAVE TO BE POSTPONED BY SOME MONTHS BECAUSE OF DELAYS IN THE PROCESS OF ISSUING IDENTIFICATION CARDS TO ALL
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ECUADOREAN ADULTS. PLAZA'S STATEMENT HAS CAUSED SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL PARTY CRITICISM AND HAD BEEN READ BY MANY AS A SIGNAL THAT THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO DELAY THE RETURN PROCESS.

3. MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT JARRIN ALSO NOTED THAT THE CURRENT JUNTA WILL RETAIN POWER UNTIL THE INAUGURATION

OF A CIVILIAN PRESIDENT, THEREBY DENYING THE GROWING RUMORS
THAT THE MILITARY WOULD SURRENDER POWER TO AN INTERIM CIVILIAN.

4. THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY TOLD THE
OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSIONS AND THE TRIBUNAL THAT ALL
STOPS WOULD BE PULLED IN AN EFFORT TO INCREASE THE PACE
OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE NEW ID'S SO THAT THE RETURN TO CIVILIAN
RULE COULD BE FULFILLED AS SCHEDULED. IF THERE IS ANY
DIFFERENCE IN THE SCHEDULE, IT WILL BE "MINIMAL."

5. COMMENT: PLAZA'S STATEMENT CAUSED CONSIDERABLE CONSTERNATION
IN THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT. AN ASSESSMENT OF HOW MUCH,
IF IT ALL, IT UNDERMINED THE GROWING PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF
THE MILITARY'S GOOD FAITH WILL HAVE TO WAIT AT LEAST UNTIL
THE LONG HOLY WEEK POLITICAL "RECESS" IS OVER. IT APPEARS HOWEVER,
THAT THE REAFFIRMATION BY THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF ITS INTENT
TO ADHERE AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE TO ITS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED
SCHEDULE SHOULD ACTUALLY INCREASE THE PUBLICS CONFIDENCE IN THE
GOOD FAITH OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL.
BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 08-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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